

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

ACDA-05 /062 W

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P R 180826Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3961

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY -- TESTIMONY BILL PASSES AND POSSIBLE  
SCANDAL SURFACES

REF: SEOUL'S 8801 AND 8308

1. ON NOVEMBER 18, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN PLENARY SESSION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED COMPROMISE TO TESTIMONY BILL AS ANTICIPATED. ASSEMBLY THEN MOVED TO RECESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF 1976 BUDGET IN COMMITTEE. BEFORE RECESS COULD BE CALLED HOWEVER, NDP DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER, HWANG NAK-CHU, RAISED ISSUE OF POSSIBLE SCANDAL IN CONSTRUCTION OF IMMENSE NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING. HWANG NOTED THAT CERTAIN "OFFICIALS", REPORTEDLY AT LEAST 12 IN ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT, HAD QUITE SUDDENLY BECOME RICH OR PURCHASED WHAT HE CALLED "LUXURIOUS HOUSING". HWANG ALSO CALLED ASSEMBLY ATTENTION TO REPORTS OF POOR CONSTRUCTION INCLUDING CRACKS IN ASSEMBLY WALLS AND LEAKING WATER. ASSEMBLY SECRETARY GENERAL SONU-CHONG-WON REPORTEDLY COUNTERED HWANG BY STATING HE WOULD "KILL HIMSELF" IF ANY MALFEASANCE WERE FOUND IN CONSTRUCTION OF ASSEMBLY BUILDING.

3. LATER, IN REPORTEDLY ANGRY MOOD, DRP FLOOR LEADER KIM YONG-TAE WONDERED TO PRESS WHERE NDP HAD FOUND ITS "SECRET INFORMATION".  
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HE FURTHER NOTED THAT ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NEEDED AN OVERALL

SHAKEUP, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF ALLEGED LEAKING OF SUCH INFORMATION. MIDDLE LEVEL DRP SOURCES TOLD EMBOFFS THAT RUMORED LEAKING OF INFORMATION TO NDP MIGHT BE RESULT OF ALLEGED INTRA-PARTY FEUD BETWEEN DRP SECRETARY GENERAL KIL CHUNG-SIK AND PARTY'S FLOOR LEADER. ALTHOUGH TWO WERE ONCE CONSIDERED RELATIVELY EQUAL IN PARTY HIERARCHY, KIM YONG-TAE HAS RISEN HIGHER IN PARTY COUNCILS AND HAS BETTER ACCESS TO BLUE HOUSE. SOURCES ALLEGE KIL CHUNG-SIK OR ONE OF HIS ADHERENTS MIGHT BENEFIT BY SUCH LEAKS.

4. COMMENT: RUMORS OF RAKE-OFFS FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING HAVE BEEN AROUND SINCE ITS GRAND OPENING THIS FALL BUT THIS IS FIRST TIME MAJOR PUBLIC CHARGES HAVE BEEN LEVELLED. WHETHER AND TO WHAT DEGREE SCANDAL ACTUALLY EXISTS IS NOT CERTAIN AT THIS POINT. IT IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, THAT ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT PROPOSED THAT AT LEAST FOUR CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS RECEIVE MEDALS FOR EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION BUT CEREMONY WAS RECENTLY CANCELLED WITHOUT EXPLANATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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